

REMARKS

Applicants request favorable reconsideration of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks. Of claims 1-16 which were pending in the application, only claims 9-15 were rejected. Applicants appreciate the allowance of claims 1-8 and 16. By way of this amendment, Applicants have amended claims 9, 12, 14, and 15. Accordingly, claims 1-16 are respectfully submitted for reconsideration.

1. Priority Document

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's acknowledgment of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119. The Examiner is requested, however, to acknowledge that the certified copy of the priority document has been received (*i.e.*, box 12(a)(1) in the Office Action Summary was left unchecked).

2. Rejection of Claims 9-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2

Claims 9-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2 "as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention." Specifically, the Examiner objected to the recitation of a "third discrimination means to generate a third discrimination signal" in claim 9 (*i.e.*, the claim from which claims 10-15 depend) on the ground that this limitation was not shown in the drawings.

In response to this rejection, in claims 9, 12, 14, and 15, Applicant has replaced the recitation of "third discrimination means for generating a third discrimination signal" with "discrimination enlargement/reduction means for generating an enlarged/reduced discrimination signal." Support for this change is provided in the text (page 24, line 6 – page 27, line 9) and in the figures (Figures 3, 4, and 8) of the instant application which, respectively, discuss and show the discrimination enlargement/reduction unit 232 and the enlarged/reduced discrimination signal which it outputs.

To further the Examiner's understanding of the pictorial support for the limitations recited in claim 9, Applicants provide the following with respect to Figures 3 and 8: (a) the area discrimination unit 211 may be analogized to the "first discrimination means"; (b) the rectangular area discrimination signal output by the area discrimination unit 211 may be analogized to the "first discrimination signal"; (c) the attribute discrimination unit 212 which

receives the area discrimination signal may be analogized to the “second discrimination means”; (d) the discrimination signal output by the attribute discrimination unit 212 may be analogized to the “second discrimination signal”; (e) the image enlargement/reduction unit 231 may be analogized to the “image enlargement/reduction means”; and (f) the discrimination enlargement/reduction unit 232 may be analogized to the “discrimination enlargement/reduction means.” Further, the plurality of signals input into the enlarged/reduced discrimination signal switching unit 314 (which is part of the discrimination enlargement/reduction unit 232, as seen in Figure 4) may be analogized to the “enlarged/reduced attribute discrimination signals” recited in dependent claim 12.

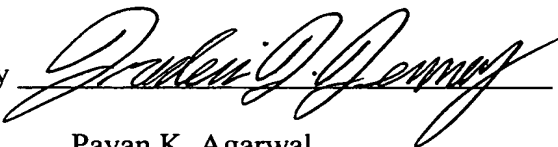
In light of the amendments to claims 9, 12, 14, and 15, Applicants assert that the Examiner’s rejection based on a failure to show recited structure in the figures has been overcome. Therefore, the rejection of claims 9-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2 should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

For the aforementioned reasons, this application is in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned if such communication would expedite the prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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By 

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THE COMMISSIONER IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO CHARGE ANY ADDITIONAL FEES WHICH MAY BE REQUIRED REGARDING THIS APPLICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, OR CREDIT ANY OVERPAYMENT, TO DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 19-0741. SHOULD NO PROPER PAYMENT BE ENCLOSED HEREWITH, AS BY A CHECK BEING IN THE WRONG AMOUNT, UNSIGNED, POST-DATED, OTHERWISE IMPROPER OR INFORMAL OR EVEN ENTIRELY MISSING, THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED TO CHARGE THE UNPAID AMOUNT TO DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 19-0741. IF ANY EXTENSIONS OF TIME ARE NEEDED FOR TIMELY ACCEPTANCE OF PAPERS SUBMITTED HEREWITH, APPLICANT HEREBY PETITIONS FOR SUCH EXTENSION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 AND AUTHORIZES PAYMENT OF ANY SUCH EXTENSIONS FEES TO DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 19-0741.